

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Saturday, January 11, 2025

The Fire Budget

Under the state constitution, the governor is required to present a budget proposal for the coming fiscal year in early January. As blog readers will know, Governor Newsom in contrast to his predecessors, has in the past favored very lengthy presentations of his budget proposals, reeling off figures all with lots of charts and slides.

This past Monday, as blog readers also will know, he "previewed" the budget briefly, but didn't provide the usual documentation. Yesterday, the documentation was provided, but with the current fire situation in the LA area there was no presentation of any kind. The governor instead was showing himself dealing with the fires.

The governor has said the budget was balanced. But it isn't in the common English usage of that term - as opposed to California budget-speak. At best you could say that there is still money in the till even though we are drawing down state reserves, both in the current fiscal year and in the proposal for next year.

	Current Year	Proposal
\$ Millions	2024-25	2025-26
GF Beginning Balance	\$ 35,877	\$ 26,299
Revenue & Transfers	\$ 222,473	\$ 225,095
Expenditures	\$ 232,051	\$ 228,892
GF Surplus or Deficit	\$ (9,578)	\$ (3,797)
GF Ending Balance	\$ 26,299	\$ 22,502
Public School Ending Balance	\$ 1,157	\$ 1,533
Safety Net Ending Balance	\$ -	\$ -
BSA Ending Balance	\$ 18,045	\$ 10,945
Total Ending Balance	\$ 45,501	\$ 34,980
GF Surplus or Deficit	\$ (9,578)	\$ (9,578)
Public School Surplus or Deficit	\$ 1,157	\$ 376
Safety Net Surplus or Deficit	\$ (900)	\$ -
BSA Surplus or Deficit	\$ (4,514)	\$ (7,100)
Total Surplus or Deficit	\$ (13,835)	\$ (10,521)

Note: The figures in italics are based on last year's budget document and may be out of date. But they are approximate indicators.

Sources: <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2025-26/pdf/BudgetSummary/SummaryCharts.pdf>; <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2024-25/pdf/Enacted/BudgetSummary/SummaryCharts.pdf>.

When we talk about the budget as being in surplus, balance, or deficit, we usually refer to the general fund (GF) which can be thought of as the state's checking account for ongoing expenses. Associated with the general fund are various alternative savings accounts: Public School, Safety Net, and Budget Stabilization Account (often termed the rainy day fund). You have to sum up the alternative accounts with the general fund and see if in a particular year, the total in them is rising (surplus), staying the same (balance), or falling (deficit). As can be seen above, the total is in deficit in the current year and in the proposed fiscal year.

If you are wondering about the UC portion of the budget, it is basically flat at \$5 billion this year and in the proposal for next year. So if inflation-adjusted, it is a cut.*

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*<https://ebudget.ca.gov/2025-26/pdf/GovernorsBudget/6000/6440RWA.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:     

Labels: [governor](#), [legislature](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#), [UC budget crisis](#)

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Friday, January 10, 2025

Some UC Retirees Will Benefit



You might have seen the headlines about President Biden signing a bill liberalizing Social Security benefits for certain retirees.

Most UC employees will not benefit because back in the 1970s, the Regents "integrated" the UC pension system with Social Security. Anyone hired since integration is unaffected.

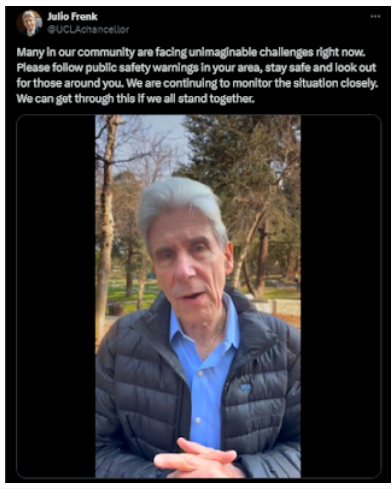
However, there are still retirees who were on the UC payroll at that time who elected not to integrate. At the time, given the structure of Social Security law back then, not integrating was the right decision for most of those employees. But when the windfall provisions that Biden just repealed came in, those retirees were subject to them and their Social Security benefits from non-UC employment (including self-employment) were cut.

Those employees/retirees that were subject to the now-repealed law will benefit.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: [social media icons]

Labels: pension, pensions, politics, uc retirement, ucrp

Fire Message



Or direct to <https://ia600105.us.archive.org/29/items/newsom-1-2-25-new-laws/UCLA%20chancellor%20on%20fires%201-9-2025.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: [social media icons]

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Thursday, January 9, 2025

Reduced Operations for Thursday-Friday

Reflections on the Devastation in our Region and an Update on Instruction and Campus Operations

January 8, 2025

Chancellor Frenk shared this message with the UCLA campus community.

Dear Bruin Community:

The first week of classes is typically a joyous occasion, and I am deeply sorry that the fires in our region have instead brought so much pain and caused so much devastation.

My leadership team and I recognize the anguish and anxiety these circumstances are creating within our community. As of this moment, at least five people in the L.A. area have died, homes and entire neighborhoods have been destroyed, more than 150,000 people have been evacuated and many more lives have been completely upended. UCLA and Los Angeles are connected — and these events have touched all of us. I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to everyone affected by this disaster, and I ask that you do everything you can to stay safe and, if you are able, to look out for those around you.

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to curtail campus operations, cancel undergraduate classes and move graduate courses to remote instruction for the next two days, Thursday, Jan. 9 and Friday, Jan. 10. While there remains no immediate fire danger to our campus, given an expected change in wind patterns in the hours ahead, it is likely that the air quality in Westwood will worsen.

For employees, if you are able to work remotely, please coordinate with your supervisors to do so. I am asking supervisors to work directly with their employees to meet any critical staffing and operational needs on campus, while being understanding and flexible.

Our UCLA Health facilities will remain open and fully operational so we can continue treating patients during this time. For those who work in the UCLA Health clinical areas (including medical, dental and nursing clinics), you will receive further communications from UCLA Health.

Our PreK-12 programs — Geffen Academy, UCLA Lab School and our Early Care and Education Programs — will be closed on both Thursday and Friday. UCLA Extension will move to remote instruction on these days.

We will continue to monitor conditions in the area and are prepared to further adjust campus operations if need be. Any modifications to classes after the next two days will be determined in collaboration with the Academic Senate, and we will share them immediately via BruinALERT with our community.

Even as UCLA's central focus is on protecting our students, faculty and staff, I am also grateful that our university is doing what it can to support the broader L.A. community in a time of need. In addition to making available vacant units in our faculty housing facilities and at UCLA South Bay for employees who have been impacted, we are treating patients around the clock at our UCLA Health hospitals and clinics, housing evacuees at the Luskin Conference Center and adjusting facilities operations to preserve water for first responders. UCLA organizations have opened up their doors to provide free meals and other support to the community as well.

I want to personally thank our teams who have gone above and beyond to support Bruins and our neighboring communities during these times. UCLA has helpful resources available to support members of our campus, and I have included many of them below. Together, we will navigate this challenging period.

Sincerely,

Julio Frenk, Chancellor

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Source: <https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/distressed-by-the-devastation-in-the-region>.



- ▶ 2010 (431)
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Contributors

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:22 AM No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [UCLA](#)

Lost Money

Local TV station KTLA put out a report recently headlined, "UCLA loses multi-million-dollar gift over handling of campus protests." The report was based on documents obtained from UCLA under a public records request. It implies, but does not quite say, that UCLA is slow-walking the turning over of such documents. The multi-million dollar donation that was cancelled was apparently included in a "living trust" by a donor the report chose not to identify but that was contacted for verification.

Whether there will be additional information released to, and reported by, KTLA is unknown.

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*<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/ucla-loses-multi-million-dollar-gift-over-handling-of-campus-protests/>.

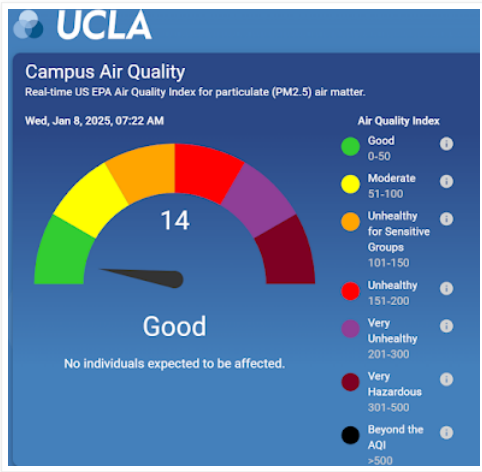


Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [fund raising](#), [UCLA](#)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

No BruinAlerts or Other Notifications This Morning



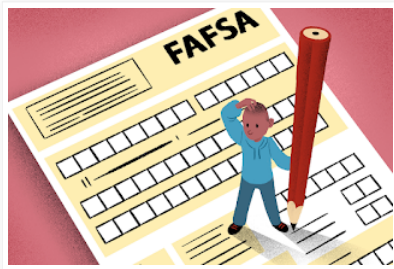
Source: <https://map.ucla.edu/aq/>.

I found no notifications on the UCLA website this morning indicating any effect on operations of the fires.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [7:27 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [UCLA](#)

FAFSA Risk



As blog readers will know, past problems with FAFSA* - the form used to obtain federal aid for college attendance - concerned the technical glitches in the application process. Now a new risk has emerged from some students. From the [LA Times](#):

...Submitting financial aid forms this college application season has become a potentially life-altering family decision for California high school seniors with undocumented

parents — a predicament also faced by many college students because FAFSA forms generally must be submitted annually to determine ongoing aid. The Department of Education, which administers the FAFSA used to calculate Pell Grants, federal loans and other aid for students, typically does not share immigration status data with other government agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement. But college counselors and financial aid support groups have recently told students from mixed-status families, many of whom are lower-income and could benefit the most from federal aid, that there's still risk.

A recent notice from the National College Attainment Network, a nonprofit student advocacy group, noted that the Higher Education Act "prohibits the use of data for any purpose other than determining and awarding federal financial assistance." But it said it "cannot assure mixed-status students and families that data submitted to U.S. Department of Education, as part of the FAFSA process, will continue to be protected." ...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-01-02/fafsa-students-mixed-status-undocumented-parents>.

*FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:



Labels: admissions, diversity, financial aid

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